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*The Marchants*

June 15, 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

FROM: Gerard C. Smith

In our concentration on the Geneva tactical situation, I wonder if we are giving enough weight to the portentous events which are taking place in the Western alliance.

During the Geneva Conference of 1959, Germany has been in the throes of its greatest postwar political convulsion.

France is brazenly moving away from the North Atlantic alliance. American tactical air-power is being withdrawn from French bases.

The United Kingdom has publicly taken an inconsistent position from that of the United States in regard to the chief political issue of the day - the Summit meeting. In general, relations between the United States and the United Kingdom are no longer in the "honeymoon" following the October 1957 Macmillan-Eisenhower talks.

From the Soviet point of view the cumulative effect of these developments may be much more interesting than the Geneva talks. In fact the Berlin episode may be remembered in history not for its own importance but because: a) it changed United States-United Kingdom relations; b) it caused the United States to start a military withdrawal from France and; c) it marked the beginning of the end for its greatest opponent in Europe - Chancellor Adenauer.

Under these circumstances, I wonder if you and the President should not promptly have a series of heart to heart talks with DeGaulle and Macmillan and Adenauer. It seems to me that we are at a cross-roads in American post-war policy towards Europe.

*G/p Gerard C Smith*

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